Pavek Prizes Broadcast History

By Vicki W. Kipp

When a day off comes, what’s a broadcast engineer to do? Here’s an idea: marvel at the equipment used by the broadcast engineers, TV viewers, and radio listeners of decades past.

The Pavek Museum of Broadcasting is only a road trip away. The museum (Figure 1) is located at 3515 Raleigh Avenue in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, a Minneapolis suburb. Take a look at the Pavek Museum online at www.pavekmuseum.org or phone Pavek at (952) 926-8198. The museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday – Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday for guided tours.

The mission of the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting can be summarized in three tenets: to educate the community at large on how electronic communications impacted the evolution of society; to stimulate young people to explore science and communication arts; and to preserve historically significant items relating to the development of electronic communications.

Joseph R. Pavek began his famous broadcast equipment collection in 1946 while teaching electronics at Dunwoody Institute in downtown Minneapolis. Students routinely dismantled radios to learn about the circuits. Pavek was troubled to see the elaborately-crafted radios destroyed, and decided to take one home for preservation. Thus began his life long collecting hobby.

After retiring from decades of teaching, Joseph Pavek created his own venture, Twin City Nut and Bolt Company. While traveling through North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin selling nuts, bolts, and paint, Joseph Pavek also acquired old broadcast equipment. He stored his broadcast collection at his business site.

(continued on page 4)

DTV Dialog

By Paul Stoffel

Last month’s SBE program was more of a fireside chat, instead of the proposed “shootout.” We gathered to talk DTV language and to learn something new, as each of our DTV streams was diced and sliced down to maps, tables and bits. The makeshift laboratory included an ATSC stream analyzer, DTV set-top boxes, a datacasting demonstration and a computer DTV tuner/PVR setup.

The Triveni Digital StreamScope analyzer, brought in by Mark Rushton, was hooked up to an off-air antenna.

Jim Wright, Sinclair Group, aptly navigated the StreamScope’s menus, using it to delve deep into our 188-byte packets. We looked at all five DTV stations in the Madison market. As with any test instrument, learning what the menu parameters mean is equally as important as the numerical values presented. Sure, we saw green, yellow, even red flashing indicators, but it will take more than a two-hour lab class (program) to know and understand what it all means.

It was time to compare the assembled set-top boxes, including vintage Panasonic TU-DST50 and RCA DCT-100 boxes; Samsung’s 150, 151, and 165 models; and a Zenith HD420. The purpose of this comparison was not to determine the better box, but to illustrate their ATSC-compliant features and how they react to our individual DTV signals.

The boxes capable of showing an electronic program guide (EPG), generated from WISC and WHA, were the Samsung models and the RCA. The new Zenith box lacked a guide button. WHA has a second audio service on 21-2 for (when-available) Spanish language and descriptive audio
**COMMITTEE APPOINTEES**

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**March Business Meeting Minutes**

Chapter 24 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers met on Tuesday, March 18, 2003 in Studio A at Vilas Hall on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin for the chapter’s monthly meeting. There were 17 members in attendance, 14 of whom were certified and 5 guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by Chapter Chair Tom Smith. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the March issue of the newsletter. Newsletter editor Mike Norton announced the deadline for articles for the April issue will be midnight, Friday, April 4th. The folding party will be held Wednesday, April 9th at 5:30 PM at WKOW-TV.

Chair Tom Smith stated that Treasurer Stan Scharch reported the chapter currently has a balance in the black.

Next month’s program will be a tour of Avid. The May program will cover IOT applications.

Sustaining membership chair Fred Sperry reported a total of 24 sustaining members with a new member being Sound Devices, LLC and recent renewals being Scharch Electronics, Harris Corporation, Fujinon, WMTV-TV (15), Wisconsin Public TV, Maney Logic, and Swiderski Electronics.

Certification chair Jim Hermanson reported Clark Jillson passed his CBNT exam. The deadline for the June exam is on April 25th.

Frequency Coordinator Tom Smith reported on a number of items. Updates and revisions affecting the Broadcast Auxiliary Service rules were published March 17th in the Federal Register and will be effective April 16th, except for rules affecting emissions, which will be effective Oct 30th. Stations should update their copies of the rules. Comments on Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for cable and consumer electronics industries integrated digital cable television receivers are due March 28th. Responses to the inquiry regarding additional spectrum for unlicensed devices in the TV band have been received by the FCC. A Notice of Inquiry issued regarding interference immunity performance specifications for receivers has been issued. A report on the FCC’s recent ownership hearing was made, noting the small amount of time for public comments.

In unfinished business, Election Chair Steve Paugh reported on the ballot for the chapter’s upcoming elections. Ballots will be included with next month’s newsletter.

Chapter Chair .................... Vicki Kipp  
Vice Chair .......................... Tom Smith  
Treasurer ........................... Stan Scharch  
Secretary ........................... Jim Magee

The Broadcast Clinic planning committee held their first meeting. They need to establish the total program 6 weeks earlier than (continued on next page)
March Business Meeting Minutes (continued)

last year. Papers are due May 1st. Their next meeting will be May 12th.

SBE Executive Director John Poray was in attendance. He was in Madison working on the National Awards Dinner to be held during the 2003 Broadcasters Clinic. He reported that the FCC’s Office of Engineering and Technology had invited the SBE for feedback on the 2 GHz retuning, such as what equipment was being used and costs.

The National SBE will have a booth at NAB, in the same location as before, but closer to the engineering sessions. At NAB there will be an SBE membership meeting on Tuesday and the SBE board meeting will be Sunday morning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

The program this month was a shootout of various DTV set-top boxes and PSIP information and monitoring, and was coordinated by Paul Stoffel.

Submitted by Jim Magee, Secretary

Certification Information Available

New certification information brochures and applications are available from Jim Hermanson, the Chapter 24 Certification Chair.

If you are considering taking an SBE certification exam, would like more information, or have questions about the process, you are encouraged to contact Jim. He can be reached by sending an email message to jmh@execpc.com.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

By Tom Weeden, WJ9H

• The National Association of Broadcasters has announced that amateur John Reiser, WQ4L, of Mt Vernon, Virginia is the winner of its 2003 Radio Engineering Achievement Award. According to NAB, Reiser, who retired in 2000 as a senior broadcast engineer with the FCC’s International Bureau, played a significant role in many landmark rulings during his 39 years with the FCC, including the standardization of the FCC national program for broadcast station inspections in the 1970s, the 1976 revision of the broadcast rules and regulations, and the reorganization of the Broadcast Bureau into what is now the Media Bureau. “For many years, his extensive knowledge of the FCC rules and hands-on experience and day-to-day contact with broadcast stations made him a critical resource to the industry in helping broadcasters comply with the FCC rules,” the NAB said in announcing the award. NAB award winners will be honored April 9 at the NAB2003 convention in Las Vegas.

• Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey offered some kind words for amateur radio on “page four” of his March 19 Paul Harvey Noon News and Comment program. “America’s quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies—amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes," Harvey said. "After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public.”

The commentary’s enigmatic and mysterious final sentence apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status.

• The Daily DX” web site <http://www.dailydx.com> reports that Diya Sayah, YI1DZ—one of the primary operators at the Baghdad Radio Club YI1BGD station in Baghdad—had dismantled the YI1BGD station equipment prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Sayah stored it in a safe place—if there can be such a location in the besieged capital city at this point. The Daily DX Editor Bernie McClenny, W3UR, says he doubts there will be any activity in the near future from YI1BGD “much less any other YI stations.”

The YI1BGD club station went on the air in the 1970s. The Iraqi Association for Radio Amateurs (IARA) remains an International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society.

(Excerpts from the American Radio Relay League’s “The ARRL Letter”)
Pavek Prizes Broadcast History (continued from page 1)

During the seventies, Joseph Pavek sought a sponsor to acquire, shelter, staff, and exhibit his collection to the public. Unsuccessful in finding a benefactor for his equipment, Pavek resigned himself to selling the entire collection at auction.

When Pavek’s dream seemed most elusive, hope appeared in the form of Earl Bakken. Bakken, the co-founder of Medtronic and inventor of the wearable pacemaker, shared Pavek’s fondness for old radios. Earl Bakken had funded his college education by repairing radios and television. Bakken envisioned the educational opportunities which Pavek’s collection could provide.

Joseph Pavek, Earl Bakken, and Paul Hedberg of the Minnesota Broadcasters Association banded together to create a non-profit organization to fund the museum.

The museum opened on October 29, 1988 with Pavek’s collection of transmitters, radios, and television which dated from 1900 to 1950. Joseph Pavek passed away in June 1989 at age 81 after having realized his life’s ambition to create a broadcast history museum.

Joseph Pavek Collection

The Pavek Collection features a working 1912 rotary spark-gap transmitter (Figure 2). Historically, telegraph operators were called “sparks” because a spark was generated when the operator keyed a character on the transmitter. This set cost about $88 in 1912. The spark-gap transmitter was popular from 1900 to 1920 when it was superceded by the vacuum tube oscillator. Pavek’s collection also includes early-Twenties crystal radios, and a chronologically organized vacuum tube display.

Pavek Ham Shack

Devoted amateur radio operator Joseph Pavek went by the call sign W0OEP. When Pavek died, the Pavek Museum convinced the FCC to reassign his call sign to the museum’s club station. The Pavek club station W0OEP (“Old Empty Pockets”) is set up for communication on the 20-, 15-, 10-, and 2-meter Bands. A 60-foot crank up tower holds a tri-band HF antenna and a VHF antenna. QSOs are usually made using W0OEP’s 100-watt Kenwood 440 transmitter, although a 600-watt Collins KWM2 transmitter is also available.

Jack Mullin Collection

The Jack Mullin Collection covers 125 years of audio recording technology spanning from phonograph to television to magnetic recording.

Figure 1. Pavek Museum is in the St. Louis Park suburb of Minneapolis.

Figure 2. Sending an S-O-S on a spark-gap transmitter.

Figure 3. Wurlitzer P-10 “Debutante” Jukebox.

The Museum’s Wurlitzer P-10 Jukebox, the first model manufactured by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company, was aptly nick-named the “Debutante”. This early mechanical jukebox lifts up the record when it is finished playing and drops it into a depository below (Figure 3).

The recording lathe (Figure 4) contained in the Mullin Collection was used to cut the Vitaphone discs for the first talking movies.

(continued on next page)
Pavek Prizes Broadcast History (continued)

The cone speakers on display – adorned with wood cutouts of flowers, ships, and castles – were both functional and artistic (Figure 5).

At the end of World War II, Jack Mullin brought two AEG Magnetophon tape records from a German radio station to the United States. Mullin introduced tape recording technology to America. The first recorded radio program in US history occurred when Bing Crosby hired Mullin to record Crosby’s radio show.

In 1952, Emory Cook introduced the “Binaural” Disc. Binaural records contain two separate tracks to be played simultaneously by a single arm with two pickup needles (Figure 6). Cook’s product was doomed once the mono groove stereophonic disc arrived in 1958.

Charles Bradley Collection

The Charles Bradley Collection kept in the Minnesota Room features more than 60 radio and television manufacturers who had operations in the Twin Cities area.

Other Exhibits

One of the first Theremins made by RCA is on display (Figure 7). Russian physicist Leon Theremin invented this unusual instrument in 1919. The Theremin is played by moving one’s hands near the vertical pitch antenna and horizontal volume antenna without actually touching the antennas. Theremins create an eerie sound effect typical of outer-space movies.

One exhibit that particularly impressed me was a Philco radio model 39-116 with a wireless remote control called “Mystery Control” (Figure 8). Philco released this innovative product in June 1938. The Mystery Control resembled an old rotary dial telephone without the handset (Figure 9).

By dialing one of the ten dial finger holes to the finger stop, listeners could remotely switch to any of eight preset stations. To raise or lower volume, the listener dialed from the loud or soft finger hole to the finger stop, and then held down the finger stop until the desired volume was reached. A pulsing mechanism connected to the dial times the return of the dial when it is released. Inside the wooden remote control case is a battery operated oscillator which is normally off and only turned on during dialing operations. Using control frequencies ranging from 350 to 400 Kilocycles, the Mystery Control transmits RF pulses to a receiver in the radio cabinet. To adjust volume, the control box sends a continuous RF signal. The Mystery Control cannot remotely power on the Philco radio because the control frequency receiver in the radio is turned off until the radio is powered on.

Another memorable exhibit was the 1949 Stewart-Warner Wonder Window television (Figure 10). When you want to watch a show, you lift the hinged lid containing a “Photo-Mirror” screen to a 45 degree angle above the cathode ray picture tube. The mirror displayed a reflected, magnified image of the picture on the CRT screen.

(continued on page 6)
Interactive

Groups can create their own radio broadcasts from the Pavek Museum’s 1950s era studio KPAV-AM 1200 kHz broadcast station.

The Pavek Museum conducts 6,000 tours per year for school children. The children’s tour includes visitor participation in a television quiz show.

Children in fourth, fifth, or sixth grade can enroll in Pavek’s Saturday morning ‘Magnets to Megacycles’ class about basic electricity. Electronics savvy volunteers teach ‘Magnets to Megacycles’. The class involves lectures, problem solving, and hands-on construction.

Adults may enroll in Pavek’s ‘Historical Perspectives’ or ‘Vintage Radio Service’ classes. ‘Historical Perspectives’ is for post-secondary students preparing for a career in broadcasting or mass communications. The course studies the history and development of the broadcast industry. The ‘Vintage Radio Repair Service’ class is for broadcast equipment collectors and hobbyists who would rather fix old equipment than throw it out. This class runs for seven Saturday mornings.

Those who choose to sponsor the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting receive free admission, the bimonthly newsletter, priority invitations to museum special events, a discount at the museum gift shop, use of museum research library and archives, and use of museum equipment to transfer older recordings to newer formats. While the most popular dub request is transfer of wire recordings which were popular from 1946 to 1950 to cassette or compact disc, the Museum can dub just about any audio tape format including LPs up to 16-inches.

The Pavek Museum’s technical library features schematics for most consumer radios, televisions, and hi-fidelity equipment up to 1970; 22 volumes of John F. Rider’s Perpetual Troubleshooter Manuals; Howard W. Sam’s PHOTOFACT Manuals 1-1200; many amateur radio schematics and operating manuals; RCA manuals; Western Electric manuals; every TV-Guide from volume 1 through 1980; past issues of Radio Mirrors, Popular Radio, Radio News, QST, Radio, and CQ; and old catalogs.

The Museum’s Director, Steve Raymer, has a background in antique radio repair. When I visited the Museum’s Technical Shop, Steve was advising an old-radio enthusiast about replacing capacitors and resistors in his 1939 Emerson radio. The Technical Shop would draw out the treasure hunter in any engineer. This large room contains all kinds of retired equipment, some of it for sale to the public. The substantial assortment included Morse code keyers, vintage television sets, radios, and VTRs; rotary dial telephones; ham radio equipment; transmitters; a slow motion VTR; books about ham radio and broadcast technology; and a vast collection of working vacuum tubes for older devices.

Today, broadcast equipment is highly-integrated. Mechanical parts have been replaced by hard drives. Minuscule circuits with VLSI make some boards almost impossible to service. In contrast, the Pavek Museum’s broadcast equipment has mechanical parts, discrete components, and spacious circuit boards which make for easier understanding of how the equipment works. Glamorous lighted signs promoting vacuum tubes for receivers made me ponder the days of user-serviceable appliances and TV repair people who made house calls. I also enjoyed the novelty of a broadcast environment constant enough that station call letters could be permanently labeled on receivers.

In conclusion, a day off exploring at the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting is a day well spent.

Acknowledgements: Stephen Raymer, Director of the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting; http://members.aol.com/philcomc/mcoper.htm by Chuck Schwark; http://www.tvhistory.tv/.

Figure 10. 1949 Stewart-Warner AVC1 Wonder Window “New Yorker” television.

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SBE Short Circuits — April 2003

By John L. Poray, CAE
SBE Executive Director

RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Even though April 1st has passed, Regular, Senior, Associate and Student members can still renew their SBE membership and not miss any issues of The SBE SIGNAL, discounts on publications and certification or access to the SBE JobsOnline, Resume Service or insurance. Use your renewal form mailed to you in February. If you need a new form, call or e-mail Angel Bates at the SBE National Office at (317) 846-9000 or abates@sbe.org.

CHAPTERS CAN “BROADCAST” MEETINGS

SBE chapters will have the opportunity to stream chapter meetings or other chapter events for free, thanks to Tieline of America and BNetRadio. Tieline of America has made available to SBE chapters, through BNetRadio, free access to one of their POTS Codecs units for the purpose of streaming SBE meetings and related events. Thanks to BNetRadio studios in Houston, some SBE events will be carried live and all will be archived for others to access on demand.

Tieline General Manager, Kevin Webb, has made a permanent loan to BNetRadio of this unit for this purpose. BNetRadio’s Dave Biondi will ship the remote unit to you prior to your event. You will need a phone line to hook it to and you provide the manpower for the “remote”. After the event, you ship the unit Back to BNetRadio. If you already have a Tieline unit available from a station in your area, you can just call the event in without the shipping hassle.

Other SBE events are in the works using the Tieline POTS Codecs unit. A US wide SBE meeting that would include the folks at SBE HQ and elected officers, anchored out of the BNet Studios, is a possibility. Calls would be accepted with questions and comments from around the country. Pending sponsors for phone lines, BNetRadio will be at NAB2003, streaming the SBE Emergency Alert System session again and also the SBE Membership Meeting (anyone interested in helping with the phone line cost should give Dave Biondi a call at 713-926-2209 as soon as possible).

If your SBE chapter would like to use the Tieline POTS Codecs for a future meeting, contact Dave Biondi at the number above. Just give him enough time to get your program scheduled and ship the unit to you.

Thanks again to Kevin at TieLine and Dave at BnetRadio for making this technology available to SBE chapters.

NEW HANDBOOK FOR RADIO OPERATORS IN STOCK

The new SBE Handbook for Radio Operators is now available from the SBE National Office.

This new handbook is designed to help radio board operators learn more about the broadcasting business from both the technical and business side. The handbook covers such topics as FCC rules, technical layout of a typical station and the general responsibilities of a radio operator. An overview of station management and professional etiquette is included along with chapters on station logs, the Emergency Alert System, safety requirements and operational procedures for trouble situations. It will be helpful to anyone,
PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR INFORMATION

By Steve Paugh

As your new Program Committee Chair, I will endeavor to continue the fine work of those who preceded me. I would like to especially thank Denise Maney for her many years of service as Program Chair. It will be a challenge to continue the high degree of professionalism that Denise brought to this office.

I cut my broadcasting teeth at WKOW-TV under then chief engineer Bob Zuelsdorf and later David Wood. David went on to found Ensemble Designs after a successful career at Grass Valley. Bob eventually joined Wickhem Productions in 1988, which eventually folded back into the Morgan Murphy Company, the parent of my current employer, WISC-TV. I joined SBE in 1994 while working in the production business.

My goal as program chair is to find topics of interest to all members of Chapter 24, be they employed in broadcasting, cable, production, consulting, manufacturing or education. I would also like to draw on the talents of our members to share their knowledge with their peers.

If you have a topic that you would like to learn more about, or perhaps you yourself have knowledge that you would like to share with others, please contact any of the program committee members: Steve Paugh, spough@wiscctv.com, 277-5139; Fred Sperry, fsperry@ecb.state.wi.us, 264-9806; Steve Zimmerman, szimmerman@wkowtv.com, 274-1234.

By Darryl Lonowski

Dear Prospective Code Students,

I am looking forward to showing you how much fun learning code and CW operations can be. I was the world’s worst code student until I found Code Quick.

From this moment on; NO MORE DOTS AND DASHES, Or DITS AND DAHS! CODE IS NOT A VISUAL MODE. You wouldn’t try to taste a pizza with your ears, so why should you try to “hear code” with your eyes? (This is one of the most common errors new code students make.)

I have made arrangements with Dr. Wheeler to get 10% off the “retail” price listed on the CodeQuick Store website products (when purchased through me), as well as a reduced rate from the normal $6-7.00 shipping charge for making a volume order and getting all packages in one shipment.

If you want to purchase CodeQuick products, but cannot attend the class, I will submit your order with the class and give you the same discount. It will be up to you to arrange to pick it up at the class time, or from me, at my convenience. I will NOT be shipping.

I encourage all students to look at Dr. Wheeler’s website at www.cq2k.com for complete descriptions of the different products.

If you order the software, you must specify your operating system.

I would recommend the “Compact Disc with Computer Software Bundle” which includes the entire course with book, flashcards, and compact discs of the course (which are really very convenient compared to the tapes) as well as the innovative Software Program which I have used and think is excellent. It also gives you written tests and over 900 practice QSO’s. You need a computer (PC with Windows 95 through XP) with CD drive to use the software program. This “Bundle” represents a discount of $41.60 over each item purchased separately.

NOTICE! I will only teach this class if we have a minimum of 10 students. So get your friends and other family members to take this opportunity to save money on the program, attend a FREE Class, and get off to a good start on the road to becoming a seasoned old fist.

Send your order with Name, Address, Phone numbers, Email address, and specify which of the products you want. Include a check or money order for the proper amount. Please be accurate and certain that the check will clear, any charges for bad checks will be your responsibility.

MAIL TO:
Darryl Lonowski AB9BB
3648 Marigold Circle
Middleton, WI, 53562
Phone 608 831 2881
E-mail obdarryldl@msn.com

Complete information and full payment must be received by April 10th in order to make this special arrangement with Dr. Wheeler.

Have an idea for a SBE program?

Is there a topic you would like to see covered at one of our local Chapter 24 meetings? Is there a technology that you would like to learn more about? Or, better yet, is there a topic that you are qualified to speak on at an upcoming meeting?

Please forward your ideas to one of the Program committee members.

Thanks to Paul Stoffel for arranging the DTV set top box program for the March meeting.
FCC Rulemakings

Compiled By Tom Smith

PROPOSED RULEMAKINGS

ET Docket No. 02-380; FCC 02-328
Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band.

The comment period for this rulemaking has been extended from April 7, 2003 to April 17, 2003. Reply comments are now due by May 16, 2003. The original date for reply comments to be filed was May 6, 2003. This action was in response to a petition from the Association for Maximum Service Television. The Commission took this action on March 28th and released it on March 31st. Part of this rulemaking proposes that unlicensed devices—such as wireless computer networks—would be allowed to operate in the TV broadcast band.

MB Docket No: 03-15; RM 9832
Second Periodic Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television

MM Docket No. 99-360
Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees

MM Docket No. 00-167
Children’s Television Obligations of Digital Television Broadcasters

MM Docket No. 00-168
Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensees
Public Interest Obligations

The FCC has extended the comment period on its inquiry concerning the DTV transition. The comment period now ends on April 21, 2003, with replies due on May 21, 2003. The original dates were April 14, 2003 and May 14, 2003, respectively. This action is in response to petitions from the National Association of Broadcasters and the Association for Maximum Service Television. The FCC took this action on March 24th and released the notice on March 26th. The inquiry is a periodic review of the DTV transition and address issues and rules that may require changes to facilitate the transition of DTV.

WT Docket No, 02-68; 03-66; 03-67;
MM Docket No. 97-217
Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commissions Rules to Facilitate the provision of the Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 Bands; Part 1 of the Commissions Rules-Further Competitive Bidding Procedures; Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 to Enable Multipoint Distribution Service and the Instructional Television Fixed Service Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 to Engage in Fixed Two-Way Transmissions; Amendment to Parts 21 and 74 of the Commissions rules With Regards to Licensing in the Multipoint Distribution Service and in the Instructional Fixed Service for the Gulf of Mexico

In this notice, the FCC has started an inquiry that would completely change the face of the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) and the Multipoint Distribution Service (MDS and MMDS) band. The FCC—with requests from the Wireless Communications Association International, the National ITFS Association and the Catholic Television Network—are proposing a number of changes to the band. The two main changes would be to move from site-based licensing to geographic licensing, or from licensing a transmitter to the FCC awarding a license to a market based area. The second major change would be the dividing of the band into low-power sections for two-way use and one or more high power sections for the current ITFS and MMDS users. The two-way use would be used for Third Generation mobile phone service or broadband Internet. The reduction of Spectrum for MMDS and ITFS would mean that any TV use would have to be digital, with multicasting of a number of programs per channel.

The FCC has proposed many rules already concerning changes in licensing, auctions and transitions to new services. With previous proposals to use the ITFS and MMDS bands for 3G phones and broadband, and the amount of proposed rules, it is fairly safe that there will be major changes in the band.

The notice was adopted on March 13, 2003 and released on April 2, 2003. The comment period will last 90 days after publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, with replies due 45 days later.

ET Docket 03-65
Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers; Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television

The Commission has started an inquiry into the possibility of (continued on page 10)
FCC Rulemakings (continued from page 9)

incorporating receiver interference immunity standards into its spectrum policy. This was an issue discussed in the Spectrum Task Force inquiry.

In this notice, the FCC asks if it should develop standards based on incentives, guidelines, or regulatory requirements. Incentives would be based on programs that allow the various receiver manufacturers associations to set voluntary standards. Guidelines would be the FCC publishing suggested standards in an “OET Bulletin” or some other FCC technical publication. The final method would be the FCC placing minimum standards in their rules.

In this notice the FCC asked for comment on every possible aspect of receiver design whether it was selectivity, shielding, noise sensitivity, or in the case of digital, error correction and considerations for the type of modulation methods of the signal.

Also discussed was if various services should be treated differently. The Commission asked for comments concerning DTV receiver standards, which the FCC would like “fasttracked” because of the not-so-faraway requirement that sets of certain sizes have them built-in. Finally, the FCC asks about the effect standards would have on the users of the billions of existing receivers.

The notice was adopted on March 13, 2003 and released on March 24, 2003. Comments are due 75 days after Publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER with replies due 30 days later.

The full copy of the notice can be found by searching the FCC Document search site. There is no link to the full release from any of the headline sections, only the press release and the Commissioners statements.

The FCC is addressing the receiver issue with that idea that both ends of the transmission system must be addressed in order to set standards for good spectrum management.

FINAL RULEMAKING

ET Docket No. 01-75
Revisions to Broadcast Auxiliary Service Rules In Part 74 and Conforming Technical Rules for Broadcast Auxiliary Service, Cable Television Relay Service and Fixed Services in Parts 74, 78 and 101 of the Commissions Rules

RM-9418
Telecommunications Industry Association, Petition for Rule Making Regarding Digital Modulation for the Television Broadcast Auxiliary Service

RM-9856
Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, Petition for Rule Making Regarding Low-Power Video Assist Devices in Portions of the UHF and VHF Television Bands

On March 17, 2003, the FCC published the rules concerning the broadcast auxiliary bands in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The FCC had previously published the rules, but they do not take effect until 30 days after being published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The new rules take effect on April 16, 2003, with two parts of the rules taking effect on October 30, 2003. Those parts of the rules are part 74:535 Emissions and bandwidth and part 74:637 Emissions and Emissions limitations. The rules can be downloaded from either the FCC or the Government Printing Office websites.

CS Docket No. 99-250, RM-9257
Amendment of Eligibility Requirements in Part 78 Regarding 12 GHz Cable Television Relay Service.

This action reafirms an earlier action to allow the Cable Television Relay Service to share the 13.20 - 13.25 GHz band with Broadcast Auxiliary Service on a secondary basis. This would allow cable systems 550 MHz of contiguous bandwidth for transmission of programming to outlying systems from a central headend.

Walt Disney Company/ABC, the National Association of Broadcasters, Association for Maximum Service Television, AOL Time Warner Inc. and the Society of Broadcast Engineers had filed a petition for reconsideration. In their filings, the petitioners stated that the use of this spectrum by the cable operators would be full time and that the secondary status would be meaningless. This full time use would then force broadcast users to contact the cable systems whenever they wished to use the spectrum instead of the cable operators having to coordinate with broadcasters. The FCC denied the petition, claiming that cable systems would not build in areas where their signals would be disturbed by broadcast use, and that systems can be designed to avoid interference.


From FCC Releases (www.fcc.gov) and the FEDERAL REGISTER (www.access.gpo.gov)
Three Angels Broadcasting Network, Inc. is asking the FCC for permission to move their transmitter and increase power and antenna height. The station currently operates on channel 54 with a power of 9.36 kW at 320 meters above sea level (46 m above ground) on a high rise office building on West Washington Avenue. They currently have a construction permit to move to channel 23 and operate with 15 kW from that site.

The new transmitter site is at the WKOW Doppler tower, and will operate with a power of 70.6 kW at 416.7 meters above sea level (91.5 m above ground). The antenna will be cardioid directional with the main lobe pointing 10 degrees West of true north.

The application was accepted on March 27, 2003 and the public notice was released on March 31, 2003.

Cast Your Ballot!
By Steve Paugh,
Nominations Chair

Enclosed with this newsletter is the official ballot for the SBE Chapter 24-2003 election of officers. The deadline for returning your ballot to the nomination chair is Friday, April 25th, 2003. The nominations committee will count the ballots on the evening of Monday, April 28th, 2003 at WISC-TV.

You may turn in your ballot in person during the April 23rd, 2003 chapter meeting. If you are unable to attend the April meeting, you may mail your ballot directly to me:

Steve Paugh- c/o WISC-TV
Ballot
7025 Raymond Road
Madison, WI  53719

Please indicate “Ballot” on the envelope and we will hold your ballot unopened until the official counting process. Your ballot must be in our possession before we begin the counting on April 28th. Remember that your membership must be current to be eligible to vote. Your membership number must be entered on the ballot for it to be valid. Thanks to the nomination committee members Jim Hermanson and Leonard Charles.

Those brand new to radio or the seasoned veteran, who pulls a shift behind the console.

SBE has developed a new certification program and exam, which will be available when the book is released at the end of March. The Handbook will include sample questions to help users prepare for the optional test.

To order, call, fax or e-mail your order information to the SBE National Office. Phone orders to: (317) 846-9000. Fax: (317) 846-9120. E-mail: lbaun@sbe.org. Purchase may be made with your check, VISA, MasterCard or American Express. For orders of five or more copies, call the Certification Department at the SBE National Office for special pricing.

Thanks to WKOW-TV for providing copying and folding facilities for the Chapter 24 newsletter!

Thanks to WISC-TV for maintaining the web server for the Chapter 24 Web page!
Thank you Leonard Charles for his work on the Chapter 24 WWW page.

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Avid Tour and Chapter Elections

For the program this month, plan on stopping by the Avid Broadcast Systems Center. They are planning to show the various products that are developed here in Madison, and how they contribute to the Avid line of products. Also, exercise your right to vote in the Chapter 24 elections.

Dutch Treat Dinner
at 5:30 P.M.
at J.T. Whitney's
674 South Whitney Way

Meeting and Program
at 7:00 P.M.
at Avid Broadcast
6400 Enterprise Lane

Visitors and guests are welcome at all of our SBE meetings!

2003 UPCOMING MEETING/PROGRAM DATES:

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Program Committee: Denise Maney 277-8001  Steve Paugh 277-5139  Fred Sperry 264-9806  Steve Zimmerman 274-1234